



Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

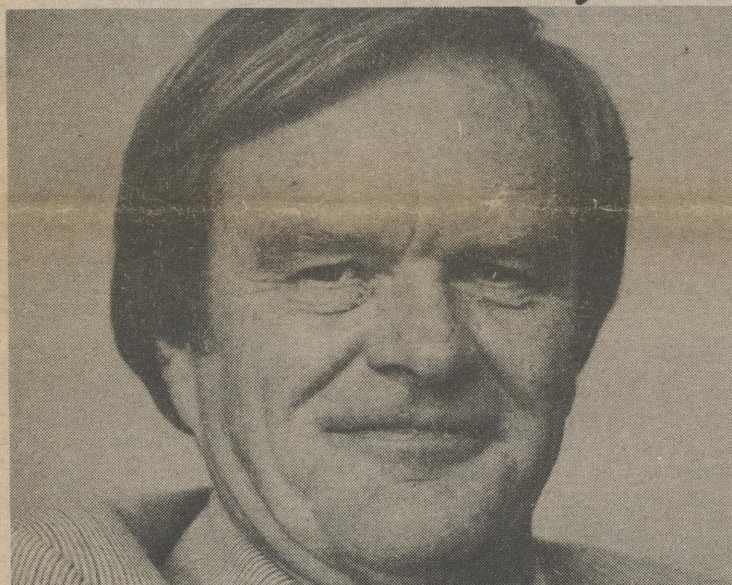
April 1981

25TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Volume 25, No. 8

**FBA Meeting
Monday
April 27
St. Paul's Parish House
Auditorium
2430 K Street N.W.
8 p.m.**

**George M. Elliott
Minister-Counsellor for
Public Relations
Canadian Embassy**



Urban Renewal: A Canadian Perspective

What techniques have Canadians found successful in dealing with the problems of urban revitalization? What may we learn from the experience of Canada's major urban areas, such as Ottawa, the capital, Toronto, and Montreal, that would be of use in downtown Washington? These areas of intense concern will be the main topic of George M. Elliott's remarks at the April Foggy Bottom Association meeting.

Mr. Elliott, Minister Counsellor for Public Affairs at the Canadian Embassy here in Washington, was born in 1923 in London, Ontario. He was educated in Toronto and attended University College, University of Toronto.

His early professional career was spent in journalism and broadcasting prior to joining MacLaren Advertising Limited as a junior copywriter in 1948. While at MacLaren, he was a fine arts journalist and broadcaster; a television writer and producer; communications consultant for the provincial governments of Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the Ber-

muda government; and in 1972 he served as special assistant in the Prime Minister's Office, Ottawa.

A member of the Canadian Eskimo Arts Council since 1963, he was chairman from 1967 to 1976; he was a founding director of the Canadian Film Development Corporation in 1968; he is the author of *The Kissing Man*, published in 1962, now required reading in Canadian literature at four universities; short stories he has written appear in five collections of Canadian short stories.

He was named senior vice president and director of MacLaren Intermark and of MacLaren Advertising in 1971 and chairman of MacLaren (U.K.) in 1973, which posts he held until his appointment to Washington, D.C. in September 1976.

With summertime approaching, vacation planning is also on our minds. Canada has many interesting and exciting places to see. If you're thinking about a trip to Canada you may want to ask Mr. Elliott about that province. It should be an interesting evening and we look forward to seeing you there.

FBA Fights Shut-Down of G St. Fire Station

Peggy Soares

A tentative date of June 1, 1981, has been set for closing the fire station on 2119 G Street, N.W., according to D.C. Fire Chief Norman Richardson.

The station and one on New Jersey Avenue, N.W. were selected from the 33 D.C. stations, according to Richardson, because they are the least needed to provide adequate fire and medical protection. City Council member John Wilson and fire fighters, however, assert that the station is necessary for the safety of the community.

A Fire Department spokesman said the G Street station was targeted for closing after an eight-month, city-wide survey of current and anticipated service demand. Also considered, according to the spokesman, was the fact that the Foggy Bottom station covers a neighborhood with fewer full-time residents than nearly any other station in the City.

The survey showed that most calls were for emergencies close to the station. It would take the M Street unit, the next closest station, approximately 1 minute, 2 seconds longer to respond to these calls.

Fire Chief Richardson said that because of vacancies in the department, fire fighters from this station would be easily absorbed into other units and are in no danger of losing their jobs. There are currently 80 vacancies in the department.

The City may convert the station into the ambulance service headquarters and the building would house at least two operating ambulances, according to Richardson.

City Council member John Wilson argues that the decision to close the G Street station was not the result of careful study. "It was arbitrarily made... a very political move. There is no logic to it," Wilson also said that neither the City government nor the fire fighters who oppose the closing has the best interests of the community at heart. "Each side is acting in its own self interest," he said.

Contrary to Chief Richardson's view, Wilson said there is a good chance that the fire fighters would be laid off. "They would not be guaranteed anything. After all, the reason the station would be closed is to save money."

Wilson said the final decision could go either way. He thinks, however, that Foggy Bottom will not lose the G Street station. "We didn't lose it in the first budget fight (two years ago), and I don't think we'll lose it in this one... but we'll have to prove it is necessary."

The fire fighters at the G Street station who oppose the closing argue that it is in the best interest of the community to maintain the unit. The City should, in fact, add



more fire fighting units because the number of calls increases substantially every year. They further argue that this station is especially needed because of the dense daytime population of Foggy Bottom and because of the high number of medical emergencies to which they must respond. Thirty percent of the station's runs are for life saving medical calls.

According to fire fighter Clarence Wooton, there are more people per square foot of land area in the daytime in Foggy Bottom than in any other area of the

City. Wooton, who has served eight years with the Department, said that if the G Street station is eliminated, the citizens and Fire Department will be "playing a game of Russian roulette." The fewer units available to answer calls for fire or medical emergencies, he said, the greater the risk of disasters. Some responses will have to be delayed. And a delay of even one or two minutes, for example, can be life or death to someone who is suffering a heart attack.

(Continued on page 2)

FBA 25th Anniversary Party

The Spring Block Party to celebrate the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Foggy Bottom Association will officially last from two to five Saturday afternoon, May 16, 1981, on the barricaded block of Eye Street N.W. from New Hampshire Avenue to Twenty-Fifth Street. Music for dancing will be provided by the well-beloved Roland Stransky quartet, who supplied the invigorating rhythms at the FBA Oktoberfest last fall.

Beer, light wine, soft drinks and food will be on sale by the Foggy Bottom Association and it is also expected that a wide variety of other refreshments will be available. Local tenant associations, churches and other neighborhood groups have been asked to participate with their own fund-raising activities.

The afternoon's program will include the introduction of visiting celebrities and demonstrations of skills in disco dancing and Tai Chi Chuan exercising by residents of St. Mary's Court.

If it rains the entire party has been invited by St. Mary's Court to move to their 725 24th St. Building.

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Fire Station

(Continued from page 1)

Sergeant J.R. Donaldson of the G Street station claimed that since 1975, runs have increased by 100 to 150 a year. And statistics provided by Bill Mould, President of the Fire Fighters Association of the District of Columbia, show that in 1980, 1,300 calls were answered by the G Street unit.

On March 30, the Foggy Bottom Association passed a unanimous resolution to oppose the closing of the fire station, and FBA President John Landgraf has sent a letter to the Mayor with copies to City Council Members Dave Clark, Betty Anne Kane, John Wilson, and Fire Chief Norman Richardson.

Citizens opposing the closing are urged to write to Council Member John Wilson, Room 121, or to Dave Clark, Room 125, City Hall, 14th & E Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.

Save the Firehouse !

Mayor Barry announced last month his intention to close the firehouse on G Street (Engine Company 23). Many citizens are upset at that possibility. Commissioner Levy recommends that you express your concern by calling or by writing our City Council members. The are Mr. John Wilson (724-8058), Mr. John Ray (724-8105), and Ms. Betty Ann Kane (724-8174). Letters can be addressed in their respective name at the District Building, Washington, D.C. 20004.

You may want to include some of the following ideas which were expressed by Commissioner Levy and passed by the ANC this month:

It appears that, in an attempt to save funds, a proposal will be made to close the firehouse located at 2119 G Street Northwest and to dissolve Engine Company 23. We strongly oppose this action.

There are several reasons we would like to go into briefly as to why this proposed action should not be taken:

Emergency Medical Service Backup. In the last fiscal year, 324 of the responses of Company 23 were for E.M.S., necessitated in part by our high elderly population, as noted below. The first two minutes are the most critical, whether there is a fire or another life-threatening event like critical, whether there is a fire or another life-threatening event like a heart attack. Because of its severe overload, it takes a District of Columbia ambulance an average of eight to ten minutes to respond to an emergency call. A fire engine can reach the scene in about two minutes and provide a necessary backup to the District's ambulance service.

High Level of Use. This station is well used. Company 23 responded 1300 times last year, an average of 3.58 per day. According to an article in the Post on 3/29/81, an average fire company responds to about three calls per day. Statistics indicate that there were 18 more active fire houses in the city and 13 less active ones.

Density and Nature of Area. Company 23 covers the White House, the George Washington University campus, much of the new downtown with its expanse of offices, and one of the highest population density neighborhoods in the city. We have a large number of high rises used for either apartments or hotels and double the city's proportion of senior citizens. The GWU dormitories have four times the population density of a typical Foggy Bottom or West End apartment building. These densities, the nature of our population, and the extensive number of high rises pose an explosive risk for fires which may occur and necessitates a fast response.

Recent Renovation. As you may know, this firehouse was fully renovated and weatherized just a year ago, at a cost of \$300,000. While it takes an average of \$550,000 to run an average firehouse annually, this station should be much more efficient than that average.

As you can see, Company 23 is essential to the health and welfare of our ANC and to nearby areas. We appreciate the mutual backup of all companies in serious fires, but none of the other stations are sufficiently close to fully cover our neighborhood to the same extent. We respectfully request that you vote to retain Company 23 and this station on the active rolls of the DCFD.

New Route 81 Schedule

As reported in last months FBN, changes were made April 12 in bus service in the Foggy Bottom area. The major change made was the dropping of the Kennedy Center-Fort McNair (M-5) route, deleting the east-bound service in the morning and the westbound in the evening.

In an effort to offset the cuts, Metro is adding buses to the 81 route, which for the most part has not been running in the morning rush. Listed below, for your information, are the times for the 81 through mid-morning, with the new departures from Kennedy Center underlined.

5:34	7:35	8:59
6:09	7:55	9:19
6:27	8:05	9:41
6:51	8:15	10:05
7:15	8:35	10:29

Route 81 leaves Kennedy Center, travels east on H Street, south on 23rd Street, east on F, north on 18th, then east on Pennsylvania, New York, and H Street.

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Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor Kathy Haley 331-7800
Advertising Manager Elizabeth Ann Miller 338-8327
Artists Pam Palco, Jackie Cooper, Bill Lattin
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24th & L Sts., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Next Edition's Deadline: May 2

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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ANC Meeting
Tuesday
May 5
Red Cross Building
2025 E St. NW
7:30 p.m.

ANC Moves to Curb Buses

During the April meeting, the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) unanimously passed a resolution to implement a permanent ban on bus traffic through much of Foggy Bottom. Commissioner Maria Tyler personally delivered the following resolution to Tom Downs, Director of the D.C. Department of Transportation:

WHEREAS, THE Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A adopted a Resolution on December 17, 1980 urging the Department of Transportation to enact a complete ban on bus traffic on specified streets in the Foggy Bottom area;

WHEREAS, Department of Transportation Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Director's Order No. 80-174, published in the District of Columbia Register of January 16, 1981, provided for the prohibition of buses on

"25th Street, N.W. from Virginia Avenue to K Street, at all times"

"26th Street, N.W. from I Street to K Street, at all times"

"I Street, N.W. from New Hampshire Avenue to 26th Street, at all times";

WHEREAS Director's Order No. 80-174 solicited comments on the Proposed Rulemaking;

WHEREAS, the above Director's Order reflects the culmination of some two years' of efforts on the part of residents of Single Member District 2A03 to alleviate the grave disruption to their lives brought about by buses which emerged in some of the narrow local streets and alleys of this residential community;

WHEREAS, the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A and residents of the affected community have therefore expressed their wholehearted support of the

The much admired tympanist of the National Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Fred Begun, has a talented and serious competitor. His name is Mr. Picoides Pubescens. A former resident of Eye Street, Mr. Picoides has recently returned to the friends he made here last year. Anyone who wishes to hear him drum should be willing to appear a few minutes before curtain time. The performances, of varying duration, take place between 6 and 7 a.m. His professional name may be strange to you. You are sure to recognize his more common name, Mr. Downy Woodpecker. A bird of discriminating taste, his theater is the sycamore by the front door of or Foggy Bottom Association president, Mr. John Landgraf, who presently serves as his manager. His stage is the dead branch, pointing toward the White House, about half way up the tree.

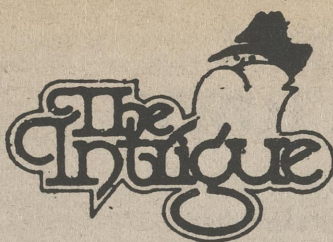
So that you may know something about Downy's lineage and performing credits, here are a few facts from the Who's Who of Woodpeckers (read "The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North America Birds"):

"The genus name *Picoides* derives from the Latin *picus*, a woodpecker, and Creek *eidōs*, ap-

pearance, resembling woodpeckers. The species name *pubescens*, Latin, 'with hairs of puberty, downy'. He is the smallest woodpecker in the United States and Canada, 6-7 inches long with a wingspread of 11-12 inches. Black and white with white back. Male has small red patch on back of head (lacking in females). Most penetrating call, uttered by both sexes, sounds like whinnying of a small horse or the sound of a steel chisel dropped and reverberating on cement paving. Both sexes drum, a long unbroken roll, which is a territorial pronouncement to other downy woodpeckers, and also functions to bring males and females together in courtship, sexual displays, and establishment or renewal by past mates, of their pair bond and subsequent breeding. Eggs, usually 4 or 5, white. A downy woodpecker in St. Paul, Minnesota, was known to live more than 10 years."

If you wish to know more about other musical guests in the Washington area, dial 652-1088 anytime, day or night, and listen to the current tape prepared by the Audubon Naturalist Society. Good birding!

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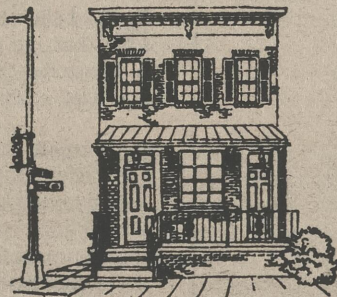
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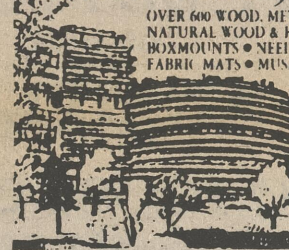
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Jules and Jim

SUN-MON May 10-11
Catch 22
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TUES-WED May 12-13
King Lear
Marat/sade

THURS-SAT May 14-16
A man for all seasons
The lion in winter

SUN-MON May 17-18
You can't take it with you
It happened one night

TUES-THURS May 19-21
The ballad of cable hogue
Shane

FRI-SAT May 22-23
The Maltese Falcon
The big sleep

News and Views from Queen Anne's Lane

Mary Brewster

Welcome to two newcomers to the Lane: Susanne Chilton and Diane Ham. Diane moved from the Dupont Circle area and Susanne from Atlanta. They are renting Suzanne Beyda's home.

Jane and Michael Checkan spent the weekend in New Jersey a few weeks ago. Michael's mother had an eye operation. We are happy to hear all is going well for her. Eileen and Murdaugh Madden recently spent a week in the Bahamas. After Murdaugh's holiday, he spent a few days in Sibley

Hospital. All is well and he is back in his office. Marguerite Stoessel has had house guests from Lima, Peru, Mr. and Mrs. Juan d'Auriol. The evening Marguerite invited a few friends and neighbors to meet her charming cousins, we were informed by our good neighbor, Richard H. Mullens that he and Mrs. Nirmala Narula plan to marry on April 17th. We are delighted and wish them much happiness.

Also among visitors to the Lane was Mrs. Olga Fisch from

Quito, Ecuador. Mrs. Fisch had been in Washington to oversee the installation of her exhibit of Ecuadorian Indian costumes at the Renwick Gallery and to lecture on it.

Few of us can remember a prettier Spring in Washington. The Bottom is lovelier than ever, as are the Cherry Blossoms at the Tidal Basin. If you miss the trees at the Tidal Basin, try to drive out to Kenwood. They are as lovely as those at the Basin and for some reason, they blossom a week or so later.

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ANC NEWS FROM A TO Z

ANC News — What is happening in Foggy Bottom-West End? What happened this April

Barclay House: At the invitation of the ANC, Mrs. Ellen Sigal of Sigal Development Corp. and architect David Jones presented slides of the new Barclay House condominium going up on the former Rosenblatt's Market site at 25th and K Streets. The design had been praised by a leading architecture magazine. Jones had also helped design the Chancellor condo on Washington Circle after the ANC had prevented another architect from putting up a massive, boxlike structure.

Bus Ban: Commissioner Tyler introduced Resolution D-2 urging the city's transportation department to promptly enact a ban on buses on and around 25th Street. The bus ban, supported by the ACN, has already been officially announced in the District Register but other pressing business before DOT has prevented it from formally adopting it. Tyler personally delivered the resolution to new DOT director Thomas Downs.

1100-25th St.: Commissioner Nowick announced that the tenants at 1100-25th St., the apartment building above Howard Liquors, had loosely organized and were working with the management to seek some improvements in the building. He praised their initiative and constructive approach.

Elise: The ANC discussed unconfirmed reports that several apartment units in the Elise, at 825 New Hampshire Ave., may have been converted illegally to transient use. The Commission noted that D.C. Law 3-87 explicitly prohibits such conversions after June 4, 1980. Commissioner Nowick asked Elise Tenants Association vice president Bill Martineau, who was at the meeting, to apprise the ANC of the actual situation in the building and the position of the tenants association. The subject will be discussed at the May 5 ANC meeting. Elise residents are encouraged to attend.

F Street Cleanup: Commissioner Molinelli has succeeded in working with the owners of the property at 2112 F Street to clean up trash on the adjacent sidewalk and with D.C. authorities in combatting a rat problem near 2138 F Street. Molinelli is currently seeking to alleviate a sewer drainage problem on the same block.

Funding for ANC's: Commissioners Molinelli and Feldman reported on several inter-ANC meetings they attend to review the Mayor's request for an approximately 10 percent cut in ANC funding in 1981 as part of the District's austerity measures. Molinelli had expressed the ANC's willingness to absorb a somewhat smaller cut even though the ANC's annual budget of only \$12,000 allows little leeway. An inter-ANC committee is currently discussing the proposed cutback with the District's finance authorities.

G Street Firehouse: Commissioner Levy introduced Resolution D-4, securing the Commission's endorsement for a letter he has drafted opposing the closing of the G Street Firehouse. The resolution reaffirms the ANC's concerns expressed in a resolution last November. Councilman Wilson is currently working to prevent the closing. (See related story).

Housing Finance Agency: Commissioner Nowick reported on a vacant seat to be filled on the newly created D.C. Housing Finance Agency, designed to provide favorable loans to public and private housing projects. Each ward is entitled to one representative to advise the agency. The ANC approved in principle a system Nowick had worked out with the other three ANC chairmen from Ward 2 to rotate this position annually among the four ANC's. The Commission will accept resumes of interested candidates before the May 5 meeting. (See related story)

Library Committee: Commissioner Nowick introduced a resolution to form a special ANC "Library Operations" Committee to monitor and promote the use of the D.C. Public Library System, particularly the West End Branch at 24th and L Streets. The resolution asked Robert Alcorn of the Swarthmore, head of the newly formed "Friends of the West End Library," to serve as chairman of the committee. The resolution passed unanimously.

Michelle-Sherry Towers Apartments: Commissioner Levy reported that the management of the Michelle-Sherry Tower Apartments had posted a 15% rent increase effective May 1. Under current rent control laws, such an increase is illegal and tenants are acting accordingly.

Margolis Restaurant: Commissioner Levy reported that the Court of Appeals had upheld the right of property owner Margolis to install a restaurant at 22nd and G Streets over the objections of George Washington University. The ANC had previously supported Margolis' application before the city zoning authorities. The court decision included the statement that, "Zoning officials do not have to take into account how private development within campus boundaries will affect the University's own plans . . . Local zoning regulations governing the GWU campus plan are designed only to 'keep universities from expanding into residential neighborhoods without control.'"

Marquette Apt.: Commissioner Levy reported that he had been successful in helping tenant Ed Hais of the Marquette Apartment, at 2115 Pennsylvania Avenue, alleviate some plumbing and water damage problems. Levy suggested that tenants in the Marquette with similar problems should contact Mr. Hais.

New Hamp. Ave. Truck Ban: Commissioner Feldman introduced Resolution D-3, calling for a ban on truck traffic on New Hampshire Avenue between Washington Circle and Virginia Avenue. Feldman had helped enact a similar ban on trucks on 24th Street. The resolution passed unanimously.

925-25th St.: Mary Clearly, secretary of the 925-25th Street Tenants Association, announced that the association had met in March and voted overwhelmingly to join with the ANC in prosecuting an appeal to a Rent Administrator's decision allowing some 55 units in the building to be converted to transient use. The tenants were currently successfully raising funds for legal expenses. On a motion by Commissioner Nowick, the ANC voted to allocate a maximum of \$250 — at a ratio of \$1 for each \$3 raised by the tenants — to help cover legal fees. Nowick reported that Councilman Wilson has pledged to defend the integrity of the law prohibiting conversions, which he had authored.

Prostitution, Drug Bill: Bob Carter, chairman of ANC 20 (Shaw-Downtown-Northeast), addressed the meeting at the invitation of the ANC and asked support for a bill before the City Council designed to curb prostitution and drug traffic. The bill, which is almost identical to one in force in New York City, had been introduced by Councilman Wilson and was encountering delays. The ANC decided to consider supporting the bill at its next meeting on May 5.

Red Lion Row: ANC special committee chairperson Karen Gordon reported on the George Washington University's continuing efforts to get approval for a large office development on the 2000-block of I Street, behind the landmark townhouses known as Red Lion Row. The ANC, FBA, Don't Tear It Down, and two other advisory bodies to the Zoning Commission — the Joint Committee on Landmarks and the National Capital Planning Commission — had all recommended rejection of the project in its current form. ANC Commissioner Nowick and FBA Board member Robert Charles had testified successfully before NCPC on April 2. Nonetheless, the Zoning Commission on April 9, two days after the last ANC meeting, had given approval to the development. The ANC has the option to ask for reconsideration of the case on administrative grounds, and may consider exercising this right in April or May. The Mayor's Agent must still rule on GWU's proposed demolition of parts of the historic townhouses, and the City Council must approve an alley closing.

7-11 Store: Commissioner Feldman reported that the Southland Corporation apparently has altered its plans for installing a 7-11 Store in the former Nichols Market at 24th Street and New Hampshire Ave. The

proposed store may be a one-story operation instead of the two-story as originally planned. Many citizens had voiced concern over potential trash, traffic, and other problems caused by the opening of a 7-11 store. The ANC will continue to closely monitor developments and report back on them.

25th and K Safety: Commissioner Nowick announced that, at his request, the D.C. Department of Transportation had installed "Pedestrian Crossing" signs on the K Street Freeway, for traffic approaching 25th Street from both directions. Nowick thanked Mr. Smallwood in DOT's street signs section for his responsiveness.

2424 Penn. Ave: Commissioner Nowick reported that an illegal rent increase at 2424 Pennsylvania Avenue had been promptly rescinded in March after several tenants alerted the D.C. Government. The new rent control law, allowing increases of up to 10 percent a year, goes into effect May 1.

26th and I House: Commissioner Tyler reported that the Court of Appeals has upheld a Board of Zoning Adjustment decision prohibiting the owner of a property at 26th and I Streets from using a residentially zoned house for commercial purposes.

26th St. Street Lights: Commissioner Nowick announced that the four street lights on the 1000-block of 26th St. had been upgraded and new lights had been installed behind the park on that block. The lights had been requested last fall by Nowick, FBA president John Landgraf, and Potomac Overlook condo President Ed Mulrenin to enhance public safety. Nowick expressed appreciation to Charles O'Neill in the city's street lights office for his responsiveness.

Vacant ANC Seat: The Commission announced that the ANC seat for district 2A07 (easternmost Foggy Bottom) was vacant with the resignation of Commissioner Miller, and that any interested applicants should submit petitions to the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics by May 7. The district has been largely depopulated and may eventually be redrawn.

Whitehurst Freeway: Commissioner Nowick introduced a resolution supporting the demolition of two unattached access ramps at the eastern end of the Whitehurst Freeway. The resolution also supports new studies by the D.C. Department of Transportation to determine whether the freeway can be demolished, modified, or depressed under K Street. Jenny Brake of the Bader and Lucille Duprat of Potomac Overlook expressed their buildings' support for the measure, which passed unanimously.

Area Residents Rally to Support West End Library

Robert F. Alcorn
Chairman

Friends of West End Branch Library

Ever since the March issue of the Foggy Bottom News hit the streets, the residents of the West End-Foggy Bottom area have swarmed to the branch to meet the librarian, register for library cards, and take out books. Mr. Horrell, the librarian, is very pleased with the results of our letter in the F.B. News. He says that circulation is increasing but only time will tell if this beginning surge will continue. We hope so.

The summer hours will be announced in the next issue of the F.B. News. They will also be posted in the library as soon as the schedule is received.

Mr. Horrell has asked me to tell you that if you need any information about library hours et al, you can ask the people on the circulation desk instead of waiting for hours et al, you can ask the people on the information desk instead of waiting for him to answer the phone. Should you need information on books and Mr. Horrell is busy on another line or out of the branch, anyone at the information desk can help you.

Are you aware of another service of your branch? If you are interested in obtaining a book which you do not see there, you can fill in a reserve card at the branch and pay twelve cents postage. At this point, the library staff requests the title throughout the system and if it is found at one of the branches, it will be forwarded to our branch whereupon you will be

notified that it has arrived. All circulating materials throughout the system are available to you in this way. Also, you can request a title through any branch in the city by telephoning it yourself and if the title is on the shelf, you can have it forwarded to the West End Branch for you. If it is not available, you will have to use the reserve card system.

Keep up the good work and thanks again for all the help!

News from the Claridge House

Dorothy Ohliger

Hey, young lovers, swimming not only is a good form of exercise, it might lead to marriage! Ed Southerland and Sally Rich first met at the Claridge House roof-top pool a year ago. Now they are married. The April wedding ceremony took place at Ft. Myer, Virginia. They're back now, receiving the good wishes of friends, after a glorious honeymoon and skiing trip to Lake Louise, Canada. (What, no swimming?) Congratulations, lovebirds!

The annual March meeting of the shareholders of the Claridge House Cooperative was followed by a wine and cheese reception at the Four Seasons Hotel. Jane Roemer and James Tavares won election to three-year terms on the board. Jane is an attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency and Jim a senior staff officer with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. In a close race of talented people, they nosed out Stanley Bloyer and Bernice Friedlander. Bernice, press secretary to Congressman Eugene V. Atkinson of Pennsylvania, has lived in Foggy Bottom 14 years and Lieutenant Commander Bloyer is now in Washington after a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Life You Save May Be Your Own! Are you aware all district residences must have smoke detectors by June 20? It's the law! Nell Crocco is actively involved in seeing that the Claridge House Cooperative meets the deadline. Her report on Smoke Detectors and D.C. Law 2-81 is outstanding. Thanks, Nell.


Gardens Are for Touring

The garden of historic Prospect House high on a bluff overlooking the Potomac is just one of the highlights of the 53rd annual Georgetown Garden Tour. Twelve gardens will be open this year on Saturday, April 25 from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. The proceeds benefit the Georgetown Children's Ho, a day care center for children from low income families.

Visitors will have a day to wander through the large and lovely garden behind the Mackall Square House with its huge old grow horsechestnut and magnolia trees. Here also, the Misses Hollerith grow their flowering plants from seed in the greenhouse. Or, tourgoers may

rest in the quiet charm of the Seymour Rubins' outdoor living room complete with distinctive sculpture and swimming pool. In another garden a tiny Venus by Wheeler Williams presides over a small pool which is surrounded by an easy maintenance garden for outdoor dining. Capping the tour, as in past years, will be Captain and Mrs. Peter Belin's four acre estate "Evermay", with its fountains, gazebos and panoramic view of the city.

Tickets are \$8.00 each at the



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Georgetown Children's House, 3224 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 or at each garden gate. Children under 12 are admitted free and a limited shuttle service is available. Tea and coffee will be served at the Children's House from 11:30 to 4:30 and there will be a door prize. Hostesses will be at each garden to answer questions.

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I Remember . . . Foggy Bottom

By: Mary E. Healy

I remember Foggy Bottom for all of my life (that's getting to be a long long time). Many of you have read of my wanderings around the Bottom in the recent past and as a tom-boy of a girl who used to live dangerously by skating from the Capitol to the area around "that old spooky looking Lying In Asylum" (Columbia Hospital for Women), peeking in the windows of the Bottom's Dance Hall, the Penn Gardens at 21st and Pa. Ave., on the way.

As a young adult I remember riding the street car to the Circle Theatre to see good old fashioned Westerns and those magnificent love stories of the early years; going to the Washington Auditorium at New York Avenue and E at about 19th to yell and scream encouragement to the Marathon Dancers; and dancing up a storm til all hours of the night on the Roof Garden of the Powhattan Hotel at 19th and Pa. Ave.

Then came the War (don't anyone dare say WWI) and for the next ten or fifteen years after that working all hours of the night, not leaving much time for anything else.

Back in about 1955 I started thinking about the Bottom from a different perspective. My cousin Anne Nacrelli decided that she was tired of taking care of a big house and was considering buying into a new venture — the proposed Potomac Plaza Cooperative Apartments down in Foggy Bottom at 25th and Va. Ave. She convinced me, along with my mother, that I had had enough of lawn care, house painting, and oil deliveries so I said I would take a look but that I didn't know about that part of Foggy Bottom.

My first look as a prospective apartment buyer was certainly different from my looks on barreling through the Bottom in my old Pontiac to get to someplace else. All of a sudden, along with the Gas Works and the Breweries and the run down houses I saw the ugliness of decay and desertion. Fortunately for me, my experience with building rehabilitation stood me in good stead — I knew what could be done with old things to make them beautiful and interesting once again.

All of us who bought into the Potomac Plaza, the first building in this Washington area to be designed and built as a Cooperative, really were taking a big gamble. At that time I had never even heard of a Cooperative much less thought about buying one! The whole Foggy Bottom Area has much to thank Edmund J. Flynn and those brave first purchasers for — they started the restoration and improvement of Foggy Bottom; they were the beginning of the lovely area we all enjoy today.

Looking back, when I finally signed on the dotted line, I was really afraid to look around the area too much for fear that I might change my mind.

In August 1957, being among the first seven to move in, there were no carpets, refrigerators were stacked up outside

the front lobby (many disappeared), rats (not just mice - rats) were running around all over the place. Those wharf rats from the river bottom did not like being disturbed one bit! Hungry cats and dogs were wandering all over picking up food left by the workmen. Looking back it now seems like fun and those of us still here know that we were crazy like the proverbial smart foxes. Odd how time erases most unpleasant things.

The McLachlen Bank Family were original purchasers in the Cooperative, both for the Bank and their residence. All of us waited anxiously for them to bring some semblance of City Life to our area — "Young Tom" McLachlen used to stand at the front door and welcome us all aboard. And when we got a Beauty Parlor — Harding's Beauty Salon — we had really arrived.

These are some of the things which I remember from my first couple of years in the Bottom:

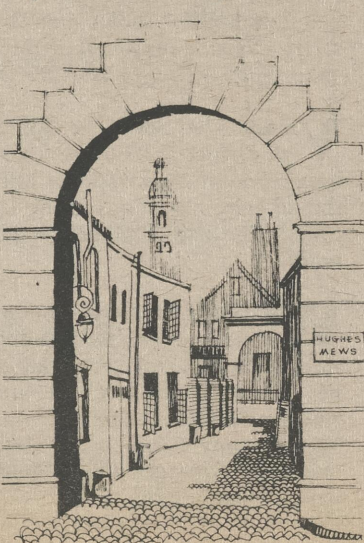
Automobiles parked sky high and knee deep in mud on the vacant lot where the magnificent Watergate now stands the remains of the Washington Gas Light tank farm, the three houses standing proudly alone at 27th street at Eye (behind where Howard Johnson's is now), a Helipad with a copter whose owner hawked an 8-minute sightseeing trip over Washington (and we thought that thing made a lot of noise in those days, look at what we have now), the Memorial Statue to those who went down with the Titanic which stood at the foot of Va. Ave. at the river (the statue not the Titanic). That statue now stands in Southwest by Harbour Square; wish we had it back, it was a lovely statue.

I remember real estate people and some owners trying to sell me some of the little houses on New Hampshire Ave. and Eye Street for practically nothing except the taxes.

I remember Marjorie Hendricks Water Gate Inn on the Rock Creek Parkway waterfront (such big popovers and such a lovely place for an unusual meal (wish that was back too); the Arena Stage, the Wax Museum and what was left of the Christian Heuricks and Abner Drury Breweries and the old Iron Works, along with the memories of the roller skating rink, the riding stables — all down around where the Kennedy Center is now. And, of course, I remember the famous Pete Daloy's neighborhood watering hole where the lovely People's Life Insurance Building was soon to rise.

I remember the Sealtest Dairy at 26th and Pa. Ave. with all its hustle and bustle and its charity — Many a poor person got free milk by going around to the side entrance. John McWhorter, who has

worked for the Potomac Plaza since we opened in 1957 also worked for Sealtest Dairy — we still swap stories every once in a while. Gold's Liquor Store was at 25th & Pa. Ave. where Howard's is now and Abend's Florist occupied two buildings next door.



On the other side of Pa. Ave. Frank DeMisa was still busy cutting hair, the LoMedicos were extending the life of our shoes, Columbia Drugs had, in 1958, already been on the southwest corner of 25th and Pa. Ave. For 30 years. In that same block Mellano's was our neighborhood restaurant and bar, and at 26th and K Street the D & W Market was a favorite neighborhood grocery store with its couple steps leading up to its front door that someone regularly "fell up".

Columbia Hospital for Women at 25th and L probably had not even dared to dream of the Clinic on 25th Street much less the new East Wing which was just dedicated. In 1957 I was no longer afraid of Columbia Hospital because I thought it was a real asylum for disturbed women; I knew by then that it was one of the finest hospitals in the area for treatment of problems associated with women and for infants.

The Federal SuperMarket, with Ann, Lester, Henry, Estell and Al, had been in the Bottom for several years and the Market and its owners were the salvation of our neighborhood.

It's still the same friendly place after all these years. Our wonderful old St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church was still proudly displaying itself from the outside while the inside was fighting a losing battle not to fall down around our heads. One night a big pillar did just that and for Msgr. Denges it was the last straw; he collared the Bishop, showed him the debris and said something to the effect that we have just got to have a new church. And a beautiful new Church we did get! It was dedicated in June 1961 and has served our neighborhood in the Bottom well ever since.

2430 Pa. Ave. was only a few years old in 1957 and it created quite an impression on that block. Washington Circle Drug, our friendly neighborhood pharmacy, was then run by Pollack and Witt. 2430 butted up against a nice row of town houses where residents regularly sat outside on the iron steps and chatted among themselves and to passersby. The north side of Pa. Ave. across from the Church looked in 1957 pretty much as it does today.

The Western Market at 22nd and K was still going strong in '57. I still remember hocking my soul to buy their famous french lamp chops. Meat was really meat then. And, old No. 3 Police Precinct was our closest security on K St. at about 20th. Jack Hunt's Raw Bar was going strong in '57 on Pa. Ave. between 17th & 18th. Just down the street a few blocks from Hunt's was the old Emergency Hospital on New York Ave. between 17th & 18th which was being converted to an office building for the first national headquarters of the new Federal Aviation Agency. I helped tear down this building and put it back together again to suit FAA's needs. I still remember getting goose bumps when I had to go down to the Hospital Morgue in the basement to lend moral support to the laborers who wouldn't work down there alone. Little did they know how scared I was! In 1958 when we were finishing up that project I got stuck in a ventilating duct trying to get some dead pigeons out — they were stinking up the Administrator's office. I think that was worse than the Morgue — at

least I could see where I was in the Morgue. Some nice things about having our headquarters in the old Emergency Hospital building was the All States Inn which was next door, the lovely Octagon House up the street, and Rich's Restaurant at 19th and E which served the best blintzes this side of New York. I remember the "Dime" Store on Pa. Ave. at about 20th — a place where you could get anything you needed at any time.

And, of course, I remember the famous Quigley's Drugstore at 21st and G Sts. which had been in the Bottom forever (it was just recently closed), the Park Lane Apartments at about 20th and Pa. Ave., the Keystone Apartments and its corner drugstore just up the street.

St. Stephen's Parish School, converted in 1954 to the Immaculate Conception Academy for girls, was taking hold at 25th & K. The Academy is the oldest girl's school still in the City.

Top Value Liquors had a tie line into the Potomac Plaza before we could turn around. The Terraces Cooperative Apartments and the AAUW building on 24th St. between G and H were just dreams in 1957; in fact, they weren't our dream. We thought we were getting a medical building on 24th with a lovely big park in between our two buildings. Our dream got rudely shattered and we wound up with a parking lot and not grass in between but we got two nice neighbors in the bargain — the Terraces and the American Association for University Women.



Historical St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 23rd St. between G and H was alive and well and glad to receive many of the newcomers to the area. St. M's is such a lovely old church, well worth your visiting now.

Beautiful Eye St. between 24th and 25th was just starting to bloom again in 1957. People who cared for history, character, and city living were buying up those little houses and were putting a lot of TLC to work to restore them. A walk down that street today is a delight.

25th St. in 1957 sported the Alamac Apts. (now the River Inn), the Plaza Food Mart at the entrance to Snow's Court, and many little houses waiting for someone to lavish some attention on them. There was an apartment house on the corner of 25th and K where Arthur Godfrey used to live; many little houses lined both sides of K St. between 25th and 26th (some are still there; some restored more than others); the big grey house on the SE corner of 26th and K was occupied by the Fitzgerald Real Estate Firm (a family like mine which had come out of Southwest Washington) — you can still see the Fitzgerald name over the front door.

Going east on K Street St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Parish Hall had finally found what we hope will be their permanent home. Across the street at the NE corner was the Monument Works where cemetery head stones, statues and the like were hand carved. Rosenblatt's market was on the SW corner of 25th and Eye before it moved to 25th and K. The Nelson Beck Upholsterers and Furniture Finishers were on the corner of 25th and H; Melita Rodeck's and Dr. Harris's houses at 25/NH and H were waiting to be adopted by them; and NH Ave. between H and Eye was full of little houses on both sides of the street. I think the Elise Apts. was there in 1957; if not it came very quickly after.

George Washington University was already being dubbed by neighborhood residents as the Creeping Vine of the Bottom, crawling steadily along destroying many lovely old buildings and houses in its march toward pro-

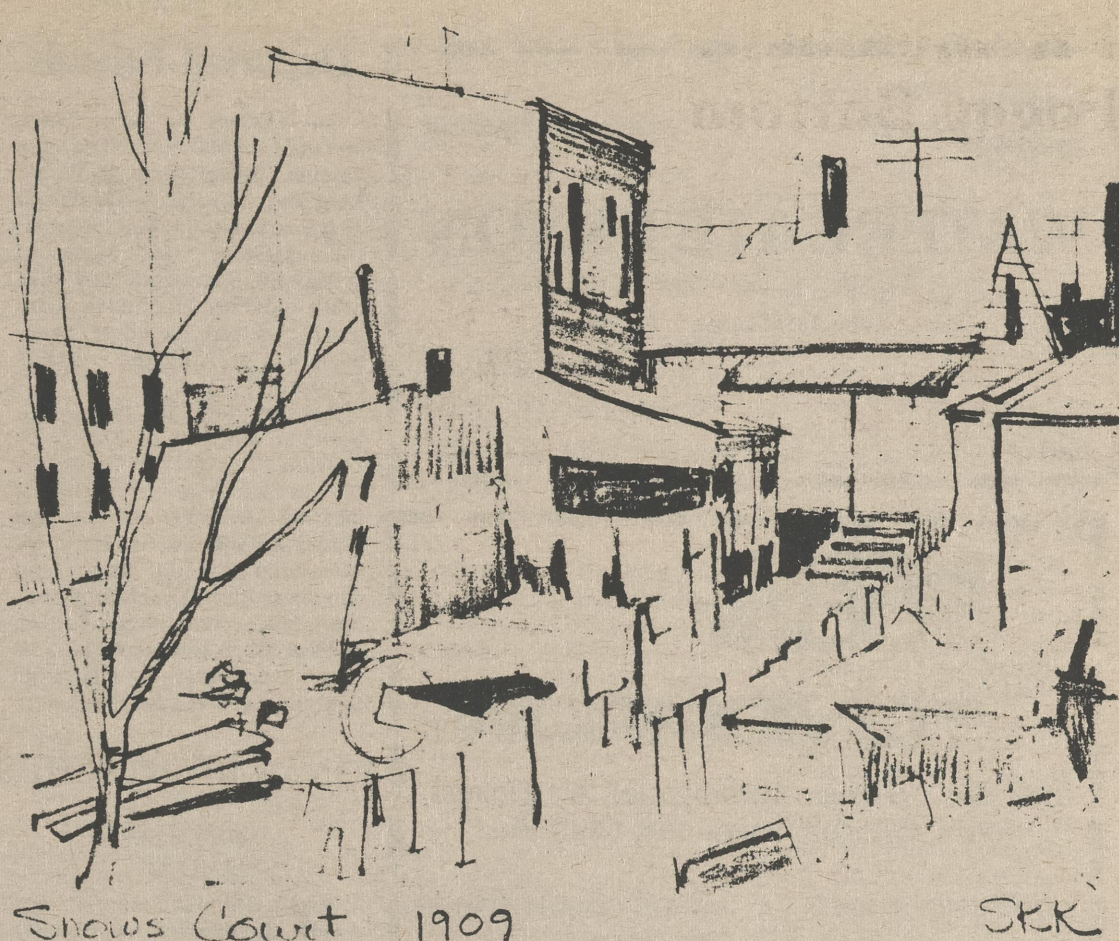
gress. GW probably wouldn't admit it, least of all to us, but I bet they wish they had retained some of those old interesting homes. Just think of the character they would have added to the University grounds and the convenience they would have provided GW's professors and administrative staff — and the good public relations that action would have accrued for the University with the Community.

25 years ago a few visionary people were mentally planning the METRO and residents of the Bottom were hoping for some means of rapid transit but little did we dream that we would wind up with a station right in our front yard. All that dirt and noise for so many years was well worth the wait as was evidenced by the hundreds of Bottom residents who turned out to welcome that first train at 6 a.m. on July 1, 1977.

Would you believe that back in 1957 the lower end of the Bottom where the PP is had a friendly private bus service (practically) furnished by the Capital Transit Co. Our little old bus went round and round from the Treasury Bldg. to 25th and Va. Ave., running until the wee hours of the morning — like 1 or 2 a.m. The drivers knew all of us by our names and we knew them. Stops in the middle of the block to pick up or let off passengers were every day occurrences.

Long before Watergate and before I moved to the Bottom the Esso Service Station (now Exxon), with its beautiful stone facing to blend with Rock Creek Park, was the pride of the City and the National Park Service and Rinehart's Sunoco Service Station kept it company both anchoring down the west end of Va. Ave. beaming their lights so that we wouldn't drive off into the River.

In 1957 we hadn't yet been had by our City Fathers and the developers who snuck in that awful orange roofed building at the foot of Va. Ave — we just woke up one morning and the bulldozers were there digging a hole — no hearing, no community input, no nothing. That still sticks in my craw. I guess because I have been unsuccessful in getting the orange painted out.



The east side of 25th St. between G and H was occupied by residents of City public housing, all of whom probably felt their neighborhood was going to the dogs when we foreigners started moving in. Eventually this area became the lovely St. Mary's Court, residence for Senior Citizens who have added so much to our area.

Senior Citizens who have added so much to our area.

Back in 1957 I remember visiting the Concordia Lutheran Evangelical Church at 20th and G; it was the church of my friend and her German parents, all of whom had lived and worked in the Bottom forever.

The old Naval Hospital was proudly perched up on the Hill from 23rd to 25th St. and from E to what we now know as Constitution Ave. Its lights in the dark of night gave out a message that all was well in the Bottom. I still enjoy looking over at that group of buildings and hope that no one ever gets the notion to tear them down and put up a modern hi-rise.

Fire Engine Company No. 23, at 21st and G, hadn't long given up their horse drawn fire trucks when the Bottom started its new beginnings.

With all the new construction in the area their trucks got plenty of action — then as now, Engine Co. No. 23 I was a very important part of our daily lives.

Grant School, across from the Fire House, had many real live children running all over the place, as did the Briggs-Montgomery School at 27th and Eye, where the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association held its monthly meetings in those early days.

Snows Court and Hughes Court (now Hughes Mews) got lots of attention from the newcomers to the area as we walked to St. Stephen's or St. Paul's or to the Avenue to go shopping. Of course we had heard the horror stories about Snow's Court — don't dare go in there by yourself and the like. For some reason that story never bothered me. I used to like to poke around in "that alley" with

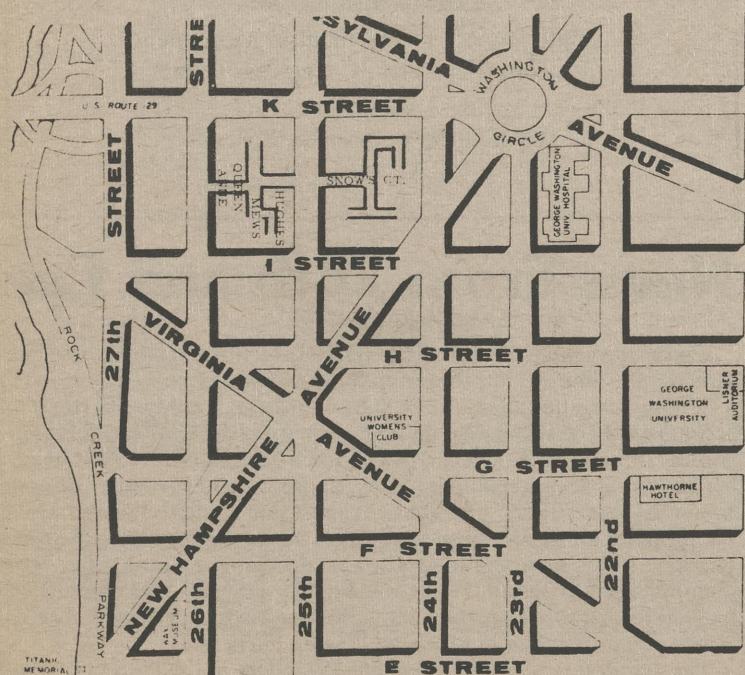
all its bends and turns. In Snows back in 1957 a few residents had started "fixing up", residents were pleased with the security which St. Paul's Church gave with its light and activity. The old brick warehouse looking building which you see there today was used for working dray horses or for horses from the riding stable, or for what but a livery stable it was.

Across the street on 25th in Hughes Court was a different story — only a few of the original houses were destined to survive. Here new construction brought a different aspect to the Bottom. A lovely new "In Town" area emerged with a character all its own. The State Dept. was expanding in 1957 and soon the entire look of Va. Ave in that area was to change. The General Services Administration Motor Pool, the round building which looked like a Train Round House, was to soon disappear, leaving an empty feeling. I always knew that I was

on the home stretch when I sighted that building.

I've done my best, stirring up memories I didn't know were there. Sometimes I would remember a building but not its name or occupant (or vice versa) so I called on my good friend Louise Pratt, who was born at 23rd and F and was raised in the Bottom, to verify my recollections. I also went down memory lane with Ann Dobbs of the Federal Supermarket pinpointing what I remembered in "her block". My thanks to both these gals, and to anyone else that I did a "do you remember with". If we used all of our memories we could write a full sized novel about the Bottom — and I bet that it would sell — any takers?

For those things I've either forgotten completely or just haven't had time to recall, I apologize. So much in the Bottom is different now yet so much is still the same as it was in 1957. It gets hard to tell the difference.



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LIMOGE**FITZ AND FLOYD****Departed Friends**On January 4, Mrs. *Helen McGrath*, of 900 New Hampshire Avenue, passed away at Walter Reed Hospital, after a long illness. Helen resided with her husband, Colonel Henry "Mac" McGrath, at 2629 Eye Street until 1959 when death took her husband and Interstate 66 took the house. Interment was at Arlington National Cemetery.Another loss in the neighborhood was that of *Spyros D. Diavatis* of 2406 Eye. "Steve," as he was known to his neighbors, died on December 22 and was buried at Parklawn Cemetery. He is survived by a son, Demos, and daughter Julie Ann Marinshaw. Steve had been a Foggy Bottom resident since 1960 and could be seen frequently at Nichols Superette, giving a helping hand.**JONAS ROBITSCHER***Elizabeth Wharton*
Snow's CourtFoggy Bottom pioneer Dr. *Jonas Robitscher*, nationally known forensic psychiatrist, died of cancer March 25 at his home in Atlanta, Ga.*Robitscher* and his wife Jean were responsible for rebuilding 18 of the row houses in Snows Court, two in the 900 block of 25th Street and two in the 2500 block of I Street in the early 1950's. Their contractor was Washington builder Russell Eldridge.

The entire Foggy Bottom quadrant bounded by 23rd St., Virginia Ave., 26th St. and K St., was slum area and when the Robitschers began their project only two houses, both on I Street, had been renovated.

The rebuilding, which began with houses 1 through 7 in Snows Court, inspired similar activity elsewhere in the area and resulted in what one Washington official called the fastest urban renewal ever seen in the District.

The *Robitschers* and some of the people who were by then owners of their houses, also were largely responsible for achieving repeal in Congress of the so-called Alley Dwelling Act, which prohibited residence in alleys and which the District was trying to enforce.*Robitscher* was a native of New York, but earned both his law and medical degrees at George Washington University and last year received their outstanding alumnus award.At the time of his death he was teaching both law and psychiatry at Emory University and maintaining a clinical practice in Atlanta. He is survived by his wife *Jean*, daughters *Jan* and *Christine*, and son *John*.**Shoe Repair**

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& Art Galleries**News From 24th and Eye***Morella Hansen**Laura Bruce* (aged 9 months) can be seen practicing walking these fine days. By the time this hits the street she would be independently mobile.

A mini-delegation from the 2400 block (Marge and Morella Hansen, accompanied by was among an interloper from the 2500 block, Peggy Brown) those visiting the Christian Heurich Mansion to see the Columbia Historical Society's exhibit "Ships, Lime, & Beer: The Foggy Bottom Industrial Waterfront." The consensus was that while the exhibit was a bit meager, obviously scrounged from the archives of the Heurich Brewery, it was sufficient to arouse nostalgia among the oldtimes. The mansion itself is worth a visit-wonderfully eclectic. Its construction must have kept every woodworker in the area busy for a decade. And its larders are larger than most Foggy Bottom kitchens.

The mansion is also the working headquarters of the District of Columbia Historical Society and in its library, which was being used by numerous researchers, you could spot our ancient tax assessments records, among other interesting items.

Looking Back

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Foggy Bottom Association, it seems appropriate to reproduce two articles about the founding of the FBNews, even though it did not make an appearance until several years after the Association was founded.

This little paper, which appears ten times a year, is somewhat unique in the city. It has been published for over twenty years, supported by fine advertisers, edited and distributed strictly by volunteers, but with as much

dedication and nearly as much professionalism as other neighborhood "for profit" papers.

The article, from the February and March, 1966 issues, touches on the uniqueness of the paper and of the neighborhood. The spirit then can still be seen today, and we hope it will continue.

The Foggy Bottom News is not what makes our neighborhood great; but it does serve to remind us what a nice area this is, and to do everything we can to keep it that way.

Ellie Becker

How the Foggy Bottom News Got Started

Some Notes on its Eighth Anniversary

By Charley Rogers — Illustrated by Shirley Kennard

A note in my diary for January 31, 1958 reads: "Took a day's leave of absence to work on FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS." My day's work appeared under a score of headlines in the first issue of the NEWS, dated February 1958. So this month marks our birthday. We are eight years old.

Herb Socks, George MacKinnon and I gave birth to the little paper one evening when I stopped by their Eye Street home to have a drink of George's Scotch. I said to Herb, then President of the Association, "Why don't we start a paper?" and Herb answered, "Why not?" George chimed in with, "I'll be business and circulation manager, and get the paper printed on NBC's mimeograph at cost of labor."

The idea of a paper for Foggy Bottom had been simmering in my mind almost from the day I moved into my house in Hughes Mews, in July 1955. Foggy Bottom fascinated me, for it was then something almost unique — a village of little houses set down within a large city. But more than a year later, early in 1958, I didn't know much about it, really, and I thought that getting out a newspaper for the neighborhood would force me to become acquainted. It did.

I continued to write and/or edit the NEWS for four years, when George and Herb moved away and nobody came forward to do advertising and circulation for the paper. It was the official organ of the Association then as now, but during those first 4 years it was actually my paper — pure personal journalism. Any resemblance to objectivity in it was coincidental. Occasionally we published announcements of Association business, true, but mostly it was a subjective representation of Foggy Bottom as I saw it. In all of my 40 years of newspaper work I never had so much fun writing, because I was free to write as I pleased. Nobody edited me.

During those years I tried to make the NEWS read like a letter from home, with lots of names of people in the "village" with as many people as possible involved in the project.

George got three advertisers for the first edition — Gold's Liquors, D & W Market, and Woodward and Norris Real Estate. George charged our advertisers \$5 an ad, and agreed to take no ad from a competitor. Time have changed.

Shirley Kennard, then a resident of Eye Street with her husband Hunter (both are architects) joined our staff as Art Editor and her work first appeared in our March 1958 issue. As an undergraduate student of architecture Shirley did cartoons for the Cornell **Widow**. She could do fast, imaginative, and often amusing illustrations for our stories. A fire at the Alamac Apartments, then under constructions, destroyed 138 toilet seats stored in the sub-basement, and 30 firemen were felled by the fumes. To illustrate the story Shirley drew a nostalgic "Chic Sale" with antenna on the slanting roof for TV in place of the old Sears catalog.

For another story, about an illustrious son of Foggy Bottom, Eddie Folliard, Shirley did a picture of Eddie's hat, and a card inserted in the rim read PRESS. Beside the hat lay a pipe, a notebook, and a pencil. A story about another newsman, the late Fred Othman (who lived at the then new Potomac Plaza), showed an amusing illustration of Fred's proper and alert poodle, Emma, sitting in front of a typewriter, typing, her machine supported on a plush cushion.

A picture of a four-poster bed topped a story about the old Robert Peter house on K Street, headed "George Washington Slept Here." The Peter house has since been razed to make way for the K Street freeway extension. George Washington was a kinsman of Robert Peter, a pioneer merchant of Georgetown, and probably did often sleep in the historic house.

Soon we picked up correspondents for several different areas and specialists. GW was covered by "Georgia" (I forget her real name), and Rhea Radin, who then lived on Eye Street and worked for Woodward and Norris realtors, — she sold most of the little houses in the village —

contributed bits now and then. One was a poem of sorts which, with illustrations by Shirley, took up all of the first page of the May 1958 issue. Shirley's sketches represented Foggy Bottom more or less as if it were the Left Bank of the Seine in Paris, where Rhea spent some of her formative years. "Sophisticated Village" was the title of the verse.

In that same issue we picked up a Church Editor, Katherine Brooks of Upper Eye Street (beyond 23rd Street), a former reporter on the Washington **Star**. Foggy Bottom Pets fell to Priscilla Johnson, knows generally as "Pip." She doesn't live in Foggy Bottom now but she still helps Foggy Bottom residents with interior decoration, which is her occupation.

Daniel White Hicky, a poet of recognized eminence and a friend of the editor, began contributing poems to our paper, some of which Shirley illustrated. Hicky's first poem appeared in the News in the June 1958 issue. It was "Now the Young Dappled Fawn."

Velva Rudd, then a resident of Hughes Mews, became our Garden Editor. Her first contribution was in October 1959. A Ph.D. in botany and a member of the Smithsonian staff, her articles were authoritative. She had a beautiful garden in her own patio.

Margaret F. McKiever a resident of the new Potomac Plaza, covered that apartment for us. It was our first new high rise. Morella Hansen of Eye Street furnished items from her block and many others, for she used to walk her dog all over Foggy Bottom. Melita Rodeck did items on architecture for us. She had just restored Foggy Bottom's own Octagon House at the corner of H and 25th Streets, which is her home. A native of Austria, Melita was educated in both music and architecture in Italy, and became proficient in both. She is a practicing architect.

Today Foggy Bottom has a new kind of charm, with its towering high rise apartments intermingled with the original little houses which the pioneers renovated. Some like it better than ever, others move away, as we plan to do in the spring. We shall miss our many dear neighbors in Foggy Bottom and our snug home in Hughes Mews, with its "Tea House of the August Moon" patio designed by Shirley Kennard, its charming third floor retreat which commands a view of the Potomac and the Virginia shore despite high rise intrusions all around. We hope our successors are kind to it.

What You Missed Last Meeting

Despite the excitement and confusion in the aftermath of the attempt on President Reagan's life, quite a number of citizens turned out to hear Mr. Thomas Downs, recently appointed director of the District's Department of Transportation (DOT). In a conversational style, Mr. Downs shared his philosophy and the problems confronting him in his new role.

A major question he faces is whether to spend his department's limited dollars on roads or mass transportation. Because efficient bus and cab service depends on a good road system, the issue is not clear cut. Mr. Downs hopes to increase reliance on public transportation by committing an additional \$3.5 million by 1990. Metro has already cost \$4.3 billion. One result of the subway and the residential parking program is that daily auto travel into the city has decreased by 10% or 35,000 vehicles since 1975. Mr. Downs hopes this decline will continue.

DOT writes two million parking tickets a year, tows 200 cars a day and boots 350-400 cars daily. The program pays for itself and generates \$100,000 more than the salary of parking agents. Double and triple parking has decreased significantly and citizens can often count on access to their driveways, alleys and even a few parking spaces close to home.

Mr. Downs said DOT wants in-be "how neighborhoods can gain

believes the issue for the 80's will be" how neighborhoods can gain control of their streets." Committed to serving D.C. citizens, Mr. Downs actively seeks that citizen input, by visiting neighborhood groups several nights each week.

Mr. Downs called the tour bus problem in Foggy Bottom, "his number two concern." Because of citizen input, he is well aware of our concerns, and he plans to make a decision soon. He also mentioned the Whitehurst Freeway "albatross" which would cost \$18 million to rebuild. The department is presently studying alternatives including demolition.

Mr. Downs spoke of traffic lights. If you've been wondering why you often hit a red light at every block, it is because the computer system is antiquated and desperately needs replacing. Mr. Downs would like to accomplish this also.

Trees are also under DOT's jurisdiction. The department cuts down 3,000 trees yearly and plants 3,200. Though we seem to be ahead, Mr. Downs believes the department is too slow. He attributes this failing to a reduction in staff to 1,000 down from 1,600.

Your neighbors made additional suggestions which Mr. Downs dutifully noted. Julie Bond recommended a four-way pedestrian light at Wisconsin and M Streets. Mr. Molinelli requested another trash can at 21st and E Streets. Bob Charles suggested a warning signal in the tunnel approach to 26th and K Streets and four way stop signs on 24th Street at G and H Streets. Citizens also expressed concern over the lack of parking enforcement particularly on nights and weekends. Mel Ogden mentioned the failure of trucks to obey the sign at 24th and New Hampshire, while another resident advised that the hotel alley near 26th and Pennsylvania is continually blocked, as are rights of way at the Exxon station. Mr. Downs commented that the police can tow and write tickets,

Housing Agency Representative Needed!

The Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) is now accepting applications of neighborhood residents who would like to serve on the advisory board to the newly formed D.C. Housing Finance Agency. The agency has been set up to increase the availability of moderately priced housing in the city. Each Ward is entitled to one representative on the agency's advisory board. The four ANC's in our Ward (Ward 2) have agreed tentatively to rotate this position among them annually. Each ANC will propose one candidate to serve when its turn comes up. Those candidates not currently filling the seat will act as a liaison to their respective ANC. All interested residents in Foggy Bottom and West End should submit a resume to ANC Chairman John Nowick or the ANC office (1920 G Street, N.W. Wash. D.C. 20006) by May 4. Further information is available at the ANC office at 659-0011. The Commission will select a representative at its next meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Red Cross Building board room, 2025 E Street.

but that they are down to 3,600 officers from 4,100.

Mr. Jon Nowick of the ANC publicly expressed his thanks to Mr. Downs for his cooperation and support and looked forward to continued assistance. From all of us, Mr. Downs, a hearty congratulations on your appointment as director of DOT.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Landgraf announced a number of actions taken by the executive board. The spring block party will be May 16. Lucille Dupratt is sending notices to tenants associations inviting them to sponsor sales tables. Volunteers are needed for various committees. If interested please call June Haley 333-6036 or Anne Lomas 965-2905.

Plans are underway for a "neighborhood watch" program. The executive board voted to continue efforts to oppose George Washington University's plans to develop Red Lion Row. President Landgraf wrote on behalf of FBA to Southland Corporation to protest plans for a 7-11 on New Hampshire Ave., but to date has had no reply. Finally the board passed a resolution to support the tenants of 925 25th Street.

Bill Mould and Kenneth Cox of the D.C. Firemen's Union appeared to request our support of Engine Company 23 at 2119 G Streets, N.W., which Mayor Barry plans to close (see story elsewhere in this issue). Paul Winick moved, Anne Lomas seconded, and the membership unanimously approved a resolution stating "the Foggy Bottom Association is opposed to the closing of Engine Company 23."

The meeting ended with an invitation by Jimmy Molinelli to attend a banquet April 25, 1981, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel on 22nd and M Streets, N.W. for \$18. At the banquet Mr. Molinelli will receive the "citizen of the year" award from the Federation of Citizens Associations.

Hope to see you at the FBA meeting this month!

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Foggy Bottom outlives notorious past

by Elizabeth Wharton

This story was written for United Press International in September, 1979 and is reprinted here with the writer's permission.

"It is used to be said of my neighborhood, during its ethnic phase, 'if you picked a fight with an Irishman at 17th street you'd have to fight every other Irishman down to the river at 27th.'"

I live in an alley in Foggy Bottom, a wedge of a neighborhood in the heart of Washington. It runs from the White House on the east to Georgetown on the west, with the Potomac River and Rock Creek forming a wandering hypotenuse.

Within that invisible boundary are such landmarks as the massive headquarters of the State Department, the box-like Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Corcoran Gallery and School of Art, George Washington University and — not least — the Watergate complex where the Democratic National Committee offices in 1972 suffered a "third rate" burglary that brought down a president.

The residents make for a heterogeneous mixture of government workers and artists, wealthy retirees and working students, and a solid core of upper middle class singles and childless couples.

The neighborhood has been called Foggy Bottom for decades. The miasma from the river and from the gas works which for

years occupied the tract where the Watergate now stands, may have given the low-lying area its name. Nobody seems sure, and there are those who believe it refers to the area's notorious past.

But the name can't be traced — as some have tried — to the environment. The diplomats didn't move in until the 1950's 100 years or so after the name was indelibly inscribed in the city's plat books.

Foggy Bottom today is one of the quietest, safest, most convenient — (the neighborhood has its own subway stop) — and most expensive neighborhoods in the nation's capital.

It was not always so.

Foggy Bottom originally consisted of a few sparsely populated acres with one tiny township — Hamburg — and two plantations named "Mexico" and "Widow's Mile." All were incorporated into the new city of Washington in 1971.

The area's early growth was slow and transportation was even slower. In 1816 it cost 25 cents — a considerable sum in those days — to cross Foggy Bottom by horse-drawn vehicle from Georgetown to the President's House. The distance was all of two miles.

Today, Foggy Bottom is densely populated, its tiny brick row houses almost eclipsed by high-rise apartments with swimming pools or penthouses on their roofs.

In 1800, according to a thesis written by George Washington University student Suzanne Berry Sherwood, Foggy Bottom's residents consisted of a carpenter, an architect, a pump borer, a stone cutter, a Negro family and a family of German immigrants.

Gradually the growth of wharves and industries along the river drew workers' families and the tract became a solid middle-class neighborhood. It was almost evenly divided between Irish and German families on the street fronts: the saying was that the Irish would fight and the Germans would clean up after them — and blacks in the alleys.

Those alleys. In some cities, the interiors of city blocks are deliberately designed as "mews" cul de sacs with houses bunched around a single entrance from the street.

That's not the way it happened in Washington, or in other cities rimming the South. Here the alley houses — almost always small brick rowhouses — were built mostly to house the freed or escaped slaves who found haven in the federal city around the time of the Civil War.

The District calls them Alley Dwellings. It tried for years to do away with them altogether, and did manage, before the developers took over, to reduce their numbers from 2,000 or more around the turn of the century to probably less than 200 now.

Georgetown was the first to recognize the appeal of the little houses — developers bought them for next to nothing or at tax sales, gutted and redid them with luxurious fittings. They sold at huge profits.

Foggy Bottom and Capitol Hill were next. My alley — Snow's Court — was developed in the early 1950s by a young medical student and his wife, Jonas and Jean Robitscher, with the aid of one of Washington's best known contractors, Russell Eldridge.

My house is 12 feet wide and 26 feet long, with a postage-stamp-sized patio. It has two bedrooms and a bath upstairs, a living room with fireplace and a tiny kitchen on the first floor, and a basement fit only for storage and for the air conditioning, heating and laundry equipment.

There are seven houses in my row, and sixteen others in the court. There were nearly 40 when the Robitschers took their big gamble in 1952-53.

I was the first to buy one of their houses and move into what was then regarded as one of the most notorious slums in Washington.

It was not as crowded as most city slums, nor as run-down. But for many years it had been a staging area for crime in the city's heart and its notoriety lingered. Most of the crime rings had been broken up and scattered long before I moved in, but for the first five years almost every other taxicab driver I encountered would flatly refuse to take me to Snow's Court.

During the years between the early 1920s and the early 1950s drug traffic, prostitution and gambling flourished openly and danger lurked in every shadow.

A friend claims a retired policeman who had spent some time on foot patrol in Foggy Bottom once told him he was literally afraid to enter Snow's Court.

"I would stand at the entrance to the alley and holler, Anybody want a cop? If anybody did, I'd call the station house for help."

You'd never know it now. All of the houses in the neighborhood have been either refinished or torn down and built from scratch, and they're sandwiched between high-rise luxury apartments, condominiums and hotels fanning out from the Kennedy Center and the Watergate.

It's more comfortable living there now, I guess. But it was a lot more fun to watch — and have a hand in — the transformation.

Introducing . . .

by Elizabeth Ann Miller

The News discovered two new businesses last month. Here are a few details about each.

If you discovered a new shop before we do (one year old or less), please let us know by sending a letter to:

Introducing
The Foggy Bottom News
c/o West End Library
24th and L Sts. NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Bridge Street Books, 2814 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, opened on June 27, 1980. The shop is not buffered by a formal display window. Rather the owner, Philip Levy, whom you will recognize sitting at the first floor window, is only a handshake away from passerby on Pennsylvania Avenue. As we entered the shop we had a feeling of familiarity.

Because Mr. Levy was busy with a customer, we took the opportunity to browse and ascended to the second floor, a trapezoidal-shaped room with orange walls lined with paperbacks sectioned by category such as history, philosophy, and psychology.

"I wanted to establish an intimate, quality book store that is serious, but entertaining, and where customer services is prime," said Mr. Levy when he joined us. "I do great deal of special ordering. My specialties are film, fiction, literary criticism, poetry, politics, philosophy, history and Judaica."

Last year one of his best sellers was *The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Gangster in America* by Albert Fried, a serious historical work on a subject until now untouched, written in a style accessible to all readers. Another strong seller was *Confederacy of Dunces* put out by the LSU Press with a foreword by Walker Percy. *Dunces* put out by the LSU Press with a foreword by Walker Percy.

We descended to the first floor where we were surrounded by hardbacks bearing such titles as *A Man* by Oriana Fallaci, *Bullies* by George Trow, *Music for Chameleons* by Truman Capote, *The Covenant* by James A. Michener and *Rehearsal's Off* by George Booth, neatly displayed on wood shelves that line the warm red brick walls.

"Hardback fiction is imponderable," Philip Levy remarks. "No one knows what will sell. It's a question of maintaining the right mix, being plugged into public taste, what people want . . . My greatest joy in working here is how much I've learned from my customers."

Gourmet Treats

"you say you can't drink coffee. Have you tried decaffeinated Viennese with cinnamon?" The speaker is Kim Bruhn, manager of the *Watergate Chefs-A Gourmet Shop*, 2538 Virginia Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 (Tel.: 298-4444). She is addressing a petite, conservatively dressed elderly woman.

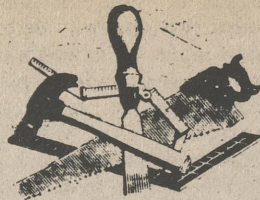
"We just happen to have it on the menu today. Let me bring you some just to try." Ms. Bruhn

(Continued on page 11)

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Introducing . . .

(Continued from page 10)

disappeared behind the sandwich counter and reappeared carrying a white styrofoam cup which she extended to the customer. "This is on us." The woman blinked as if slightly startled and tentatively accepted the cup. A minute later both parties were smiling and nodding.

"The shop opened on November 3, 1980," Ms. Bruhn tells us. "Our coffee is from all over and it is just the beginning. We have packaged goods from all over the world. We have over one hundred kinds of cheese and we are the only place in Washington where you can get Petrossian smoked salmon from Norway, Petrossian smoked trout, Petrossian smoked sturgeon and Petrossian caviar."

The Watergate Chefs-A Gourmet Shop is exactly what its name implies — a showcase of the talent of the four chefs of the Watergate, Chef Laus Helmin of the Watergate Terrace, the executive chef, Jean Louis, of the restaurant that bears his name, Chef Richard Sultani of Les Champs, and Chef Dieter Scheneider, the pastry chef. All four were trained in Europe.

"All of the fresh food is made by the four chefs," says Ms. Bruhn. "Every is needed for each day — and we are open seven days a week. Half of the items are regular, the other half changes constantly. The chefs love it! It's a great way to test new ideas."

"Do you know, we have some people who come in regularly at lunchtime for the custom-prepared sandwiches, some who stop by after work every night to buy their dinner. And we have a great deal of fun working with people to put together menus," said Ms. Bruhn. "In the near future we expect to start a catering service."

Lunch With a Song

Recently, while strolling through the Esplanade Mall, we were attracted by the unfamiliar sound of live music. We followed the sound to its source: *Alfredo's Pizzeria Rosticceria*, 1990 K Street, N.W. It was lunch hour and Alfredo's was well-filled. The music emanated from a band consisting of an accordionist, and electric mandolin player and a talented young singer named Annette Loman. The band was at its best when it played the romantic old Italian music of the 40's. But it was when Alfredo Torriello, the owner of Alfredo's, took the floor, that the room really came alive.

In terms of size, Alfredo could be Pavarotti's stand-in, and addressed in his white chef's uniform, he dramatically resembles a large Pulcinella from the Comedia dell'Arte, that of character actors who would perform spontaneously. Music appear to come as naturally and joyfully to Alfredo as leaves on a tree. He has never studied music cannot read notes and has attended only three live opera performances. Yet his presentation does not seem unschooled, and it is difficult to resist his energy and exuberance with songs such as *Thorna a Sorrento* and specially *The Legend of Love*, a song of

Alfredo's own composition (transcribed by a member of the band).

"I was born in Naples," he told us, "and I have been singing all my life. I love music. I have many records - Pavarotti, Domingo — I want to learn *Pagliacci*. It is very beautiful. I began to make pizza when I was seven years old. Since I came to this country fifteen years ago I have opened seven pizzerias in New York and New Jersey." (No connection with the present Alfredo's.)

Alfredo's offers both Neopolitan Pizza, that is, the "usual New York variety", and Sicilian Pizza, a pizza with a thick crust that requires four hours cooking time. In addition to pizza, which the Washingtonian Magazine rated as the best in the city, Alfredo's offers Italian specialties such as lasagna, zucchini casserole, eggplant casserole, and a dish that

Alfredo himself created called calzones, a delicious combination of ricotta, mozzarella, parmigiano and prosciutto, all wrapped in dough.

The cannoli, which also take four hours to prepare, are excellent, and Alfredo's is the only place in Washington where you can get zeppole, Italian doughnuts. Everything is made with fresh ingredients and cooked on the premises. The pizza is made right before your eyes.

The prices at Alfredo's are quite reasonable, a loaf of freshly baked Italian bread is only 35 cents. A cappuccino made from freshly ground coffee beans is only 90 cents, and Alfredo's is currently offering a breakfast special between the hours of 7:00 and 10:00 A.M. which includes two eggs any style, potatoes, and a choice of bacon, ham or sausage, all for only 99 cents!

Foggy Bottom Baby Boom

Spring blossoms are not the only sign that mother nature has come to Foggy Bottom. Our neighborhood is experiencing a mini-population explosion. We count at least five minipbottomites under one year of age and are sure that there are more on the way. Foggy Bottom welcomes its newest and smallest neighbors. Eleven month old Charlotta Latham, born last May in Berlin, moved to 942 24th St. with parents Karen and Ernest last November. Charlotta's playmate, eleven month old Laura Kieffer Bruce, lives with her parents Maryanna Kieffer and Charles Bruce at 2409 I St. Following her father's fine example, Laura was born at Columbia Hospital. Deborah and William Cahill-Zelinka of 912 25th St. have a son, William, born last December 6th. Two other Foggy Bottom babies were born just four days apart. Carl Holscher, born February 12th at Columbia Hospital, and

parents Maureen and Dirck live at 22 Snows Ct. Sam Edmondson, born February 16th at George Washington University Hospital, and parents Marti and Phil live at 2509 I St.

Some of these parents hope to remain in Foggy Bottom and to raise their children here. They feel that urban living in a neighborhood such as ours provides a broad range of experience and stimulation for a child. Certainly children will contribute to the diversity of life in the Bottom.

Foggy Bottom Babies, a baby-sitting cooperative, has been established by local parents. Parents will exchange free baby-sitting for each other on an hourly basis. The co-op is also a good way to find playmates for a child and to meet other parents. Those interested in joining the co-op or just in meeting other families with children should call Maryanna Kieffer at 338-7673 or Maureen Holscher at 965-0973.

Foggy Bottom Residents
are invited to a
Ward 2 Town Meeting
with

Mayor Marion Barry
Thursday, May 7
7:30 p.m.

at the
N.Y. Ave. Presbyterian Church
1313 N.Y. Ave., N.W.

Come and discuss your concerns, problems and possible solution with the Mayor and Department Heads such as Jim Gibson and Gladys Mack.

For more information call Linda Anderson, 727-6424 or Marthlu Bledsoe, 333-0017.

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Farmers' Almanac



by William S. Lattin

Spring's great bursts of color, most of which quickly come and quickly go have ended with the greatest color show of all — the rich, glowing hues of the Azalea, a near intoxicant in its intensity. It's almost with relief that we look forward to May with its more lasting delights — May of roses, May of fragrances, May of moonlight and honeysuckle, Virginia Bluebells and much more.

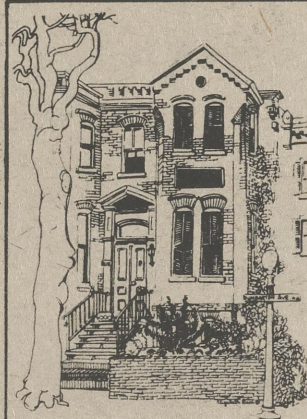
Along Potomac shores delights are many. Near month's beginning the Cottonwoods give dual pleasures as the same movement of air that sets its leaves to talking, lifts its Dandoline-like sunburst of glistening silk up and out over the water. If there are no racing shells on the river and it's a pretty weekend morning, you can be sure that there will be a regatta beginning at about 10:00 — time to walk across Memorial Bridge to L.B.J. Grove east of the bridge where there are great drifts of Virginia Bluebells. Returning by another route you can cross the beautiful flat arch timber bridge that spans Boundary Channel towards the Pentagon. Mid-channel turn about and see the artistry of Virginia landscape architect Meade Palmer, who designed the bridge and sited it so that as you approach L.B.J. Grove from its parking area by the Pentagon you see the Washington Monument framed between the trees. If you retrace your steps and follow the spiraling walkway through the pines you will break into the open with a panorama of the river, Washington, all of its

great monuments and the dome of the Capitol — sometimes pearly, sometimes rosy and sometimes aflame as the sun, unseen at the moment of sunrise, fires its windows from behind.

Only when your senses have had their fill, will you turn about to the rough hewn granite obelisk that Mrs. Johnson chose as a monument to her Lyndon.

Returning again to the timber bridge, you can rest at the far shore and listen to the tape of Mrs. Johnson telling of their love for Washington; there's a button to push in order to hear her words.

Going on, the delights continue to unfold. There are ducklings on the water — hardly larger than your fist and on the air songs of all manner of birds, from this, an actual sanctuary. Up-stream there's Arlington Cemetery, Custis-Lee Mansion and its majestic arrival court where the farmer Washington may have influenced his step-son to plant the Cedar of Lebanon that provides much of the majesty. Down from the hill past the Kennedy graves the spires of Georgetown will guide you towards the Netherlands Carrillon that on a Sunday afternoon will provide the music for your feet. Another resting point and another panoramic view of the monument city is from the steps of the Iwo Jima Monument just past the bell tower. Home is via Rosslyn, Key Bridge, the path of the C&O canal, "New Georgetown" south of "M" Street and the fishermen . . . crews below Watergate.



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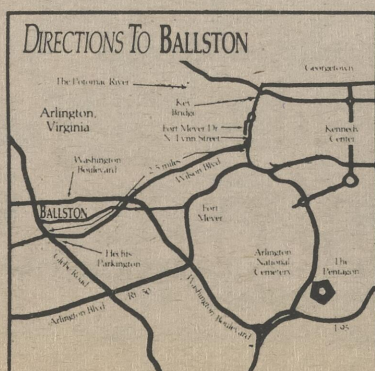
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